



## Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact [support@jstor.org](mailto:support@jstor.org).

Eric the Red deceptively christened the bleak northern country Greenland; and that they made unsuccessful efforts to plant colonies in Newfoundland where they hoped to get much-desired timber and to trade with the natives.

The reëxamination of the historical and geographical aspects of the voyages of the Norsemen combines popular and scholarly qualities in happy fashion; it brings into clear relief once more the hardihood and adventurousness of the men of the viking northwest of the tenth and eleventh centuries, qualities which have been again displayed by Scandinavian immigrants in their voyages of exploration and colonization to a New Vinland the Good in the north middle west of the United States.

KENDRIC C. BABCOCK

*An abridgment of the Indian affairs contained in four folio volumes, transacted in the colony of New York, from the year 1678 to the year 1751.* By Peter Wraxall. Edited with an introduction by Charles Howard McIlwain, assistant professor of history, Harvard University. [Harvard historical studies published under the direction of the department of history from the income of the Henry Warren Torrey fund, volume xxi.] (Cambridge: Harvard University Press; London: Humphrey Milford, Oxford University Press, 1915. 251 p. \$2.00)

“To preserve the Ballance between us & the French is the great ruling Principle of the Modern Indian Politics.” “The Indians frequently repeat that Trade was the foundation of their Alliance or Connexions with us & that it is the chief Cement w<sup>ch</sup> binds us together. And this should undoubtedly be the first Principle of our whole System of Indian Politics.”

These passages from the *Abridgment*, which Mr. McIlwain has placed at the beginning of his introduction, state clearly and concisely the theme of the document. Wraxall compiled the *Abridgment* in the year 1754, when he was Indian secretary for the government of New York, and town clerk of Albany. The four folio volumes upon which the *Abridgment* is based contained the records of the transactions between the Indians and the Albany magistrates who had charge of Indian affairs for the colony of New Netherland and afterwards for New York. The value of Wraxall's compilation is greatly enhanced by the fact that only two of these volumes have survived to the present day. His work, however, constitutes more than a mere summary of the history of New York Indian affairs between 1678 and 1751. It also preserves for us his views concerning the manner in which the Dutch magistrates at Albany conducted their transactions with the Five Nations. Writing at a time when the smouldering rivalry between the French and English was

about to burst into the flames of the seven years' war, and when the friendship of the Five Nations hung in the balance, Wraxall had a deep personal and political interest in the events he chronicled. Not the least interesting parts of the *Abridgment* are those passages and notes wherein he in no uncertain language expresses his views of the character of the Albany commissioners and bitterly arraigns the merchants who persisted in carrying on the trade with Canada to the detriment of the province of New York. He is firmly convinced that Indian trade and politics are inseparable and this view is emphasized again and again in the *Abridgment*. In brief, the document constitutes an arraignment of the character and conduct of the Albany commissioners, wherein Wraxall seeks to show how they played into the hands of the French, who were seeking to gain control of the West and the fur trade.

Very few editorial notes have been appended to the document itself, but in his introduction, Mr. McIlwain presents a full discussion of the New York fur trade and its regulation together with an account of the *Abridgment* and of its author which render further critical apparatus almost unnecessary. The first chapter contains an admirably suggestive general discussion of the early fur trade. Mr. McIlwain enlarges upon the theme repeatedly emphasized by Wraxall, namely, that the Indian trade governed Indian politics and was a consideration of vital importance in the long struggle between the French and English; and one cannot help feeling that he is justified when he declares that the importance of the Indian trade has not been sufficiently recognized by historians. It is interesting to note that the writer attacks the commonly accepted idea that the attachment of the Iroquois to the English depended upon a spirit of revenge aroused by Champlain's early acts of aggression. He maintains that trade considerations determined their attitude and the *Abridgment* itself certainly contains much to warrant such a contention. A reference to "the more or less disaffected Dutch" who were in control of the New York trade suggests a phase of the subject concerning which a little more might have been said in the introduction. The volume forms a distinct contribution to the primary and secondary literature of the fur trade and of the struggle between France and England in North America which no student of these closely related subjects can afford to ignore.

W. E. STEVENS

*Sacred bundles of the Sac and Fox Indians.* By M. R. Harrington. [University of Pennsylvania, The University Museum anthropological publications, vol. iv, no. 2.] (Philadelphia: The University Museum, 1914. 262 p. \$5.00)

Mr. Harrington, the author of this scholarly and interesting work, is a member of the staff of the Heye Museum and has written a number